Amendments to the Drawings:

As shown in the accompanying replacement sheet, please amend Figs. 8 and 9. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

Drawings 8-9 stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) regarding support for the feature of claims 11 and 25 of "each operating element disposed adjacent one of the displayed values within each field". The drawings have been amended such that fields 81-83 now show knobs, as they had in the previous versions, such as in Figs. 5, and 6. For at lease this reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

The specification stands objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP 608/01(o) for proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter regarding the feature that the "screen display different types of configuration in at least one of the fields of the screen". This claimed feature is disclosed, for example, in the specification as filed, such as on page 8, lines 5-22:

> When the configuration of the switch board is changed by the operating elements 55, it occurs by means of corresponding data using the bus 59 to cause the computer 62, on the one hand, to select new algorithms via the bus 68 from the algorithm library 67 and to put them out to the signal processor 64 and, on the other hand, to direct the graphic computer 58 via the data bus 61 to adjust the displays, dials, etc. on the screen 57 to the new configuration. The term configuration defines the entire arrangement provided for the processing of the audio signals. It can be represented in a block wiring diagram, for instance, which lists all processes, such as increases, additions of signals, filters, lever changes, etc. Such a block wiring diagram, being precisely equivalent to a configuration, can be modified by changes of the configuration so that a different block wiring diagram is valid for the processing, etc. If operating elements 56 are activated, however, the configuration (the block wiring diagram) remains unchanged and only the values of the parameters in the selected parameters are changed, transmitted by way of the bus 71 to the signal processor 64 and are displayed on the screen 57 via the graphic computer 58 as well.

It is not inconsistent that the configuration may remain unchanged while the values of the parameters in the selected parameters are changed. These are two of the features of the invention - that the configuration of the field may be changed and then the values for the particular configuration may be changed. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 11-33 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, regarding the feature that "the screen displays different types of configuration in at least one of the fields of the screen". As discussed above with regard to the disclosure on page 8 of the specification as originally filed, the computer may be used to change the displays, dials, etc. on the screen to new configurations. Between changes, the values for the fields may be set. In other words,

what is shown on the screen can be changed by the user via the computer, and then set by the user via the computer once the operation elements are activated. Therefore, there is consistent disclosure for the claimed features in the specification as originally filed. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 11-16 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentalbe over Eastty et al. (US Pat. No. 6,359,632) in view of Silfvast et al. (US Pat. No. 6,438,241) and Silfvajt et al. (US Pat. No. 5,402,501). Applicants respectfully traverse because neither Eastty et al., Silfvast et al. nor Silfvajt et al., alone or in combination, disclose or suggest, assigning "different configurations to at least one of the fields of the screen in accordance with one of the at least two operating elements wherein the at least one of the fields of the screen displays a different type of value in response to the assigned configurations".

Regarding the combined references, the Office Action correctly points out that neither Eastty et al. nor Silfvast et al. disclose the claimed feature. Moreover, Silfvajt et al. discloses production mix controller for processing and mixing audio signals has a control console separate from an audio mainframe. The controller may perform a "block copy" such that one may configure one control block and then copy that configuration to another control block by pressing a soft key. Fig. 8A, Fig. 10B, Col. 13, lines 5-19 and 41-65. Therefore, the block copy operation does not display "a different type of value in response to the assigned configurations", as recited by the claims.

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eastty et al., Silfvast et al. and Silvajt et al. in view of Silfvast '610 (US Pat. No. 5,959,610)

Silfvast '610 discloses shaft encoders that read the rotation of a series of digital input knobs. *See* Col. 2, line 64 ~ Col. 3, line 10. Neither Eastty et al., Silfvast et al., Silfvajt et al., nor Silfvast '610, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest, assigning "different configurations to at least one of the fields of the screen in accordance with one of the at least two operating elements wherein the at least one of the fields of the screen displays a different type of value in response to the assigned configurations".

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eastty et al., Bergman et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,859,631), Silvast et al., Embree (US Pat. No. 5,818,941) in view of Jaeger (US Pat. No. 5,786,811).

In addition to the references discussed above, Jaegar discloses a slidable control knob supported by an elongated track. The elongated track is attached to the face of a display panel screen that displays a decibel scale and/or other graphics. *See* Col. 21, line 60 ~ Col. 22, line 1. Bergman discloses a front panel including three layers 2, 4 and 6 and two setting elements 8, 10. *See* Bergman, Col. 2, line 65 ~ Col. 3, line 30. Embree discloses a digital sound decoder. The Office action is not clear regarding how Embree is being used in the rejection. Nevertheless, neither Eastty et al., Silfvast et al., Bergman et al., Embree nor Jaeger, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest, assigning "different configurations to at least one of the fields of the screen in accordance with one of the at least two operating elements wherein the at least one of the fields of the screen displays a different type of value in response to the assigned configurations".

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 25, 27-30 and 33 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eastty et al. in view of LeBrat et al. (US Pat. No. 5,339,166) and Silfvast et al. and Silfvajt.

In addition to the references discussed above, LeBrat discloses an algorithm library to be used for the call-up of the last algorithm therefrom. *See* Col. 22, lines 44-57. LeBrat relates to a video analysis system and does not disclose any feature of the audio signal processing apparatus recited in claim 25. Neither Eastty et al., Silfvast et al., Silfvajt et al., nor LeBrat et al., alone or in combination, disclose or suggest, assigning "different configurations to at least one of the fields of the screen in accordance with one of the at least two operating elements wherein the at least one of the fields of the screen displays a different type of value in response to the assigned configurations".

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 31-32 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Silfvast et al., Eastty et al., Silfvajt et al. and LeBrat et al. and further in view of Nixon et al. (US Pat. No. 5,801,942).

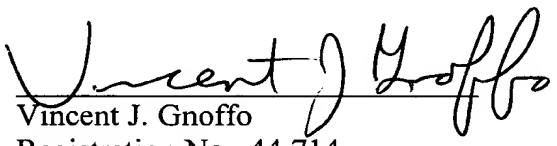
Nixon discloses a process control system including a user interface which supports multiple IEC-1131 standard control languages and user-selection from among the control languages. Eastty et al., Silfvast et al., LeBrat nor Nixon, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest, assigning "different configurations to at least one of the fields of the screen in accordance with one of the at least two operating elements wherein the at least one of the

fields of the screen displays a different type of value in response to the assigned configurations".

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Vincent J. Gnoffo
Registration No. 44,714
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200